

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03999 130924Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W

-----140538Z 096018 /11

R 130825Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3878

UNCLAS SEOUL 3999

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SGEN, EAIR, KS, US

SUBJECT: ORPHAN FLIGHTS FROM KOREA TO THE U.S.

REF: STATE 99456

1. RE INQUIRY CONCERNING THE ORPHAN FLIGHTS FROM KOREA TO THE U.S. (SEE REFTTEL), LOCAL NORTHWEST AIRLINES (NWA) OFFICIALS STATE THAT NWA TERMINATED ITS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ESCORTS FOR THE ORPHANS AS OF FEBRUARY 14. NWA REMAINS WILLING TO CARRY THE ORPHANS, OF COURSE, BUT THE ESCORTS ARE TREATED IN THE SAME FASHION AS ANY OTHER PASSENGER.

2. WHILE PAN AMERICAN (PAA) DOES NOT FLY INTO SEOUL, THE LOCAL PAA REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT PAA IS CONTINUING ITS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ORPHAN ESCORTS ON TOKYO-TO-U.S. PORT-OF-ENTRY FLIGHTS.

3. ALL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING THE SELECTION OF THE ESCORTS, ARE HANDLED BY THE ADOPTION AGENCIES AND PAA SIMPLY ACCOMODATES THEM. ADOPTION AGENCIES CONTACTED INDICATED THAT FOR REASONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE ESCORTS ARE NORMALLY SELECTED FROM PERSONS IN KOREA. THERE ARE SOME EXCEPTIONS IN WHICH ESCORTS FLY FROM THE U.S. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE SO-CALLED "REVERSE ESCORT SERVICE," BUT THESE ARE ALMOST ALWAYS PEOPLE CONNECTED

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03999 130924Z

WITH THE ADOPTION AGENCY OR RELATED TO THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS. AN INCREASE IN ADOPTIONS BY KOREAN FAMILIES HAS ALSO RESULTED IN A SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE N THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR FOREIGN ADOPTION WITH A CORRESPONDING DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ORPHAN FLIGHTS.

4. THE SITUATION AND METHOD OF HANDLING THE ESCORT

SERVICE VARIES FROM AGENCY TO AGENCY. EVEN WHEN THE ESCORT DOES NOT PAY THE AIR FARE, THE AGENCIES OFTEN EXPECT A DONATION, TYPICALLY ABOUT \$300 OR \$400, TO BE USED FOR OPERATING THE ORPHANAGE. FURTHER INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE LOCAL ADOPTION AGENCIES OR THEIR AFFILIATES IN THE U.S. THE FOUR LOCAL AGENCIES APPROVED BY THE ROKG TO HANDLE FOREIGN ADOPTIONS ARE:

1. HOLT CHILDREN SERVICES

382-14, HAPJONG-DONG, MAPO-KU, SEOUL

2. KOREAN SOCIAL SERVICES

533-3, SUNGBUK-KU, SEOUL

3. KOREAN SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY INC.

CPO BOX 24 SEOUL

4. EASTERN CHILDREN WELFARE SOCIETY

86-15, YUN HI-DONG, SUHDAEMOON-KU, SEOUL
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, ORPHANS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 99456
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2534696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORPHAN FLIGHTS FROM KOREA TO THE U.S.
TAGS: SGEN, EAIR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7baa494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009